

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2468

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJECT: NPG - DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT ON NPG TECHNOLOGY
STUDY

REF: USNATO 2412 (DTG 261205Z APR 77)

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES COMMENTS ON THE IS FIRST
DRAFT NPG PERMREPS REPORT ON THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY (REFTEL)
WHICH THE NPG STAFF GROUP WILL DISCUSS ON MAY 3. IN
ADDITION TO NEEDED EDITORIAL CHANGES IN THE BACKGROUND
SECTION, WE BELIEVE THE DRAFT REPORT SHOULD BE REVISED TO
(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE TECHNOLOGY
STUDY WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO SUMMARIZE CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS, AND (2) SET FORTH GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS
BEARING ON POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK. WE
ENVISION MINISTERS REMANDING TO PERMREPS THE TASK OF WORK-
ING OUT SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK. END
SUMMARY.

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1. WE BELIEVE THE IS DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT REQUIRES SUB-
STANTIAL REFINEMENT. IN OUR VIEW, THE REPORT SHOULD SERVE
TWO OBJECTIVES: (1) SET THE STAGE FOR A MINISTERIAL EX-
CHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY; AND (2) PROVIDE
GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS,
WITHOUT BECOMING ENMESHED IN DETAILS. THE CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MIT, PIT AND FULL STUDY PANEL
STAND ON THEIR OWN, AND IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE FOR THE
REPORT TO HIGHLIGHT SELECTIVELY CERTAIN FINDINGS, SUCH AS
THOSE FROM THE PIT IN PARA 7 OF THE DRAFT REPORT. AS FOR

FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS, THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSENSUS IN DISCUSSIONS IN THE FULL STUDY PANEL OR ELSEWHERE ON HOW TO PROCEED. IT APPEARS NEITHER FEASIBLE NOR NECESSARY TO DEVELOP AN NPG-AGREED PROCEDURAL APPROACH PRIOR TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING, SINCE THIS ISSUE CAN BE REMANDED TO PERMREPS AFTER OTTAWA.

2. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO SPECIFIC PARTS OF THE IS DRAFT:

(A) SECTION II, BACKGROUND. PARAS 2-4 REQUIRE GENERAL EDITING. AS EXAMPLES, WE PROPOSE REVISING THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 2 TO READ, QUOTE . . .THE MAJOR INTEREST OF THE NPG WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY FOR CONSULTATION AND THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITH LITTLE ATTENTION DIRECTED TOWARDS NUCLEAR FORCE POSTURE ISSUES END QUOTE, AND DELETING THE REFERENCE TO NEW GUIDANCE SYSTEMS IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 3. PARA 4 WOULD REQUIRE REVISION TO ACCORD WITH THE SUGGESTIONS BELOW FOR MODIFICATIONS IN SECTIONS III AND IV ON THE SCOPE OF THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY AND ON FOLLOW-ON WORK.

(B) SECTION III. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DEVELOP A SECTION ON SCOPE WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE WOULD BE TO REGISTER A STRONG PERMREP RECOMMENDATION FOR MINISTERS TO REVIEW IN PARTICULAR THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
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OF THE MIT AND PIT REPORTS, AND THE FULL STUDY PANEL (FSP) FORWARDING LETTER. THESE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THE STUDY ARE SELF-CONTAINED, AND A SUMMARY OF THEM IN THE PERMREPS' REPORT WOULD INEVITABLY LEAVE MUCH UNSAID - AND PERHAPS UNREAD. WE SEE NO OBJECTION TO A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY ALONG THE LINES CONTAINED IN PARA 5. ALSO, THERE WOULD BE VALUE IN CITING THE MAJOR POINTS IN THE FSP FORWARDING LETTER, WHICH IN FACT CONTAINS THE KIND OF SUMMING UP NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH A PERMREPS' REPORT. IT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE TO RETAIN PARA 6 REFLECTING THE CONCLUSIONS OF MINISTERS ON THE MIT AT THE LONDON NPG.

(C) SECTION IV. THE IS DRAFT GOES INTO MORE DETAIL ON PROCESS THAN NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE FOR DISCUSSION FOR MINISTERS. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THIS SECTION SHOULD BE TO PROVIDE A STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK CONTAINED IN THE FSP LETTER, AND TO SET FORTH SOME GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ESTABLISHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH WORK. THE FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FSP SHOULD BE QUOTED IN FULL IN THE REPORT. THEREAFTER, THE REPORT SHOULD MAKE POINTS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES BEARING ON POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK:
--CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY

ARE OF BROAD INTEREST TO VARIOUS NATIONAL AND NATO PLANN-
ING ACTIVITIES WHICH CUSTOMARILY HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED
IN NPG WORK.

--MUCH OF THE NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY (NWT) IS RELEVANT

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TO BOTH CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR DEFENSE PLANNING. WHILE
ASPECTS OF FOLLOW-ON WORK MIGHT BE ADDRESSED SEPARATELY,
MEANS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHICH ENSURE THAT THE INTER-
DEPENDENCE OF CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS OF
NWT ARE ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED.

--WHILE ASPECTS OF FOLLOW-ON WORK MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN
BY EXISTING NATO COMMITTEES AND BODIES, THERE CAN BE
CONTINUING BENEFIT IN UTILIZING AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS
INVOLVING DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
AND THE NMA'S.

-- THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY ADDRESSED THE IMPLICATIONS OF NWT
IN BROAD TERMS. BUILDING ON THIS BASE, FOLLOW-ON WORK
SHOULD MOVE A STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF PROVIDING RESULTS
OF INCREASING DIRECT BENEFIT FOR NATIONAL AND NATO FORCE
PLANNING PROCESSES.

-- THE IMPORTANCE OF NWT FOR NATO SUGGESTS THE DESIRA-
BILITY OF ESTABLISHING BROAD DIRECTION TO INTEGRATE
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FOLLOW-ON WORK EFFORTS. THIS WORK MIGHT CONTINUE TO BE
CONDUCTED UNDER THE NPG, OR ALTERNATIVELY MIGHT BE PLACED
UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE DPC, WITH APPROPRIATE CONTRIBU-

TIONS FROM THE NPG.

3. WE BELIEVE CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS THOSE ABOVE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK WOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BY MINISTERS, WITHOUT INVOLVING THEM IN ISSUES OF DETAIL, WHICH WOULD BE BETTER LEFT TO PERMREPS. THROUGH THIS PROCESS, WE CAN PRESENT US VIEWS AND HEAR OUT ALLIED VIEWS, IDENTIFYING APPROACHES WHICH CAN ACHIEVE THE MOST EFFECTIVE ALLIED SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION, AND WORK TO ESTABLISH ARRANGEMENTS MOST LIKELY TO ADVANCE US OBJECTIVES IN NATO. FURTHER, IT MAY PROVE SENSIBLE TO RELATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY TO ANY FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO POSSIBLE US INITIATIVES AT THE MAY DPC MINISTERIAL ON NWT. THESE COULD BE GIVEN AN ADDED BOOST THROUGH THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE NPG MINISTERIAL.

4. IN SECTION V OF THE DRAFT REPORT, WE BELIEVE PERMREPS SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT MINISTERS:

-- DISCUSS THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY;

-- EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CONDUCT OF FOLLOW-ON WORK;

-- AGREE TO GIVE THE PIT REPORT AND FSP FORWARDING LETTER THE SAME BROAD DISTRIBUTION IN NATO PREVIOUSLY GIVEN TO THE MIT REPORT;

-- ENDORSE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK IN THE FSP LETTER;

-- REQUEST THE EARLY PREPARATION OF A SURVEY OF ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN NATO RELATING TO NWT;

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-- REQUEST PERMREPS TO INITIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FOLLOW-ON WORK, AND REPORT AT THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN. STREATORO

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